

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, and 20 are pending in the present application. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10-19 are withdrawn from consideration pending the allowance of a generic claim. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicant acknowledges and appreciates receiving a copy of the form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 30, 2003, on which the Examiner has initialed all listed items.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Kato, U.S. Patent No. 5,773,881. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites the novel embodiment disclosed, for example, on pg. 12, lines 5 – 12 of the applicants' specification. In the cited section, a sensor board (10) is disclosed as including a movable portion (13) at one surface side thereof, a silicon layer (14) at another surface side thereof, and a circuit board (20) for communicating with the sensor board. The circuit board is disposed to confront the one surface of the sensor board through a gap portion (30) and to cover the movable portion (13), and the sensor board and the circuit board are bonded to each other around the gap portion so that a bonding portion (40) is formed that substantially surrounds the gap portion (30). Generally, claim 1 recites a close structure for the movable portion of the sensor by using an IC circuit chip board and a sensor chip board.

In contrast, Kato describes an acceleration sensor device 21 including a sensor element 22 disposed on a base plate 23 through a pedestal 24. The components of the sensor device 21 are disposed in an internal space 29 defined by the base plate 23 and a resin package.

In making the rejection, the Examiner has asserted that base plate 23 constitutes the claimed circuit board and that the sensor element 22 constitutes the claimed sensor board. Applicants first respectfully disagree that, for example, sensor element 22 amounts to the claimed sensor board including a movable portion at one surface side thereof and a silicon layer at another surface side thereof. The movable portion of the claimed sensor board is displaced under application of a dynamic quantity and the silicon layer *is separated from the movable portion by an insulator*. The sensor element 22 of Kato fails to include such features. It should further be noted that Kato fails to disclose, for example, that the circuit board is disposed to confront one surface of the sensor board through a gap portion and to cover the movable portion, and that the sensor board and the circuit board are bonded to each other around the gap portion so that a bonding portion is formed that substantially surrounds the gap portion.

Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not properly been established and cannot be sustained in that Kato fails to disclose all the claimed features in the manner claimed as required. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2, 5, 8 and 9, by virtue of depending from claim 1, are allowable for at least the reasons set forth herein above with regard to claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 5, 8 and 9 should also be withdrawn.

Independent claim 20 also recites the novel embodiment in which the circuit board is disposed so as to confront one surface of the sensor board through a gap portion and to cover the movable portion, and wherein the sensor board and the circuit board are partially bonded to each

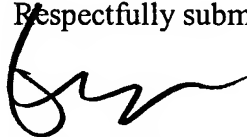
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other around the gap portion. For the reasons set forth herein above, Kato fails to disclose the claimed configuration. Therefore, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not properly been established in that Kato fails to disclose all the claimed features as required and the rejection of claim 20 should also be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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